

In the claims:

1. (currently amended) Apparatus for use by an access point in a wireless communications environment wherein multiple channels are available for communication, comprising:

means for selecting a channel on which to provide service to at least one wireless device  
by:

~~logic for sending at least one message indicative of a claim to the selected channel~~  
~~messages to other devices;~~

if no message indicative of a claim to the selected channel is received from  
another device, commencing operation on the selected channel; and

if a message indicative of a claim to the selected channel is received from another  
device, thereby indicating conflict, resolving the conflict by at least one of:

selecting a different channel on which to provide service, and

reducing transmission power; and

~~logic for receiving claim messages from other devices;~~

~~logic for using the claim messages it sends and receives to select a channel on which to~~  
~~communicate;~~

means for determining which wireless devices become associated with the access point by  
periodically:

~~logic for sending a message~~ Announce messages to other wireless devices to  
indicate the access point's presence and its protocol capability of the access point to the other  
devices;

~~logic for receiving, Bid messages from other wireless devices, messages indicative~~  
of requests to become associated with the access point wherein a device sends a Bid message to a  
the access point to indicate that the device desires to communicate in the wireless  
communications environment via the access point;

selecting a subset of the wireless devices from which a message was received  
indicative of a request to become associated with the access point, thereby rejecting some of the  
requests to become associated; and

~~logic for sending a an-Accept message to a~~ each selected wireless device in response to a Bid message to indicate that the access point will allow the selected device to communicate in the wireless communications environment via the access point.

2. (currently amended) The Apparatus of claim 1 further comprising:

means for receiving a ~~logic for receiving~~ registration request message messages from a wireless device devices, wherein ~~a the wireless device~~ sends ~~a the~~ registration request message to the access point to indicate that the device desires to communicate in the wireless communications environment via the access point using a particular protocol; and

means for sending a ~~logic for sending~~ registration acknowledge message messages to the wireless device which sent the registration request message devices, wherein the access point sends the registration acknowledge message ~~a Registration acknowledge message to a device in response to a Registration Request message~~, to indicate that the access point understands that the device will communicate in the wireless communications environment using the particular protocol ~~Dynamic Radio Control Protocol~~.

3. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein ~~a Bid message~~ indicative of a request to become associated with the access point is sent by a wireless device to the access point if the wireless device ascertains that the access point is likely to provide better wireless communications performance than another access point through which the wireless device is currently communicating.